

"GERMANY MUST KEEP ALSACE-LORRAINE,"--HERTLING

Baker Demands Chance to Defend the American Army

CHAMBERLAIN'S CHARGES HELD NOT PROVED

Administration Aids Assert Conclusions Drawn by Oregon Senator Are Not Justified by Facts.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Pres't Wilson will not accept the charges of war mismanagement made by Sen. Chamberlain as facts. That was made plain by administration lieutenants here today. But he will not challenge any of the assertions of the Oregon solon directly immediately. The administration, its chiefs said, needs no public defense at this time. The conclusions drawn by Sen. Chamberlain in his dramatic speech yesterday are held not to be warranted by the facts. And this will be pointed out through official channels in the very near future.

Sen. James to Reply. Sec'y of War Baker will give his side of the controversy to the house military affairs committee tomorrow. Sen. Ollie James of Kentucky, selected as administration spokesman, will make the administration record for the senate next week.

Meanwhile there was a general impression everywhere today that the developments of the last week, starting with Sen. Chamberlain's New York speech of last Saturday night, followed by the president's personal attack upon his statements and the dramatic speech of yesterday, has cleared the air. The public is certain to be the gainer as a result. There will be less unnecessary secrecy. Certain facts known to the newspapers but withheld because of the acceptance of the voluntary censorship plans, now will be made public with official sanction.

Much to be Proud of. There is very much to be proud of in the conduct of the war. There are stories of the performances of the navy, thrilling accounts of death faced in a dozen forms with a smiling face and of successes that were well worth having that will cause all American bosoms to swell with pride when the facts can be revealed. There will be stories of army work that will show that the troops of 1917-18 are the same culture as those who have carried the flag to the front everywhere. And this will now be revealed if the plans under discussion are carried through.

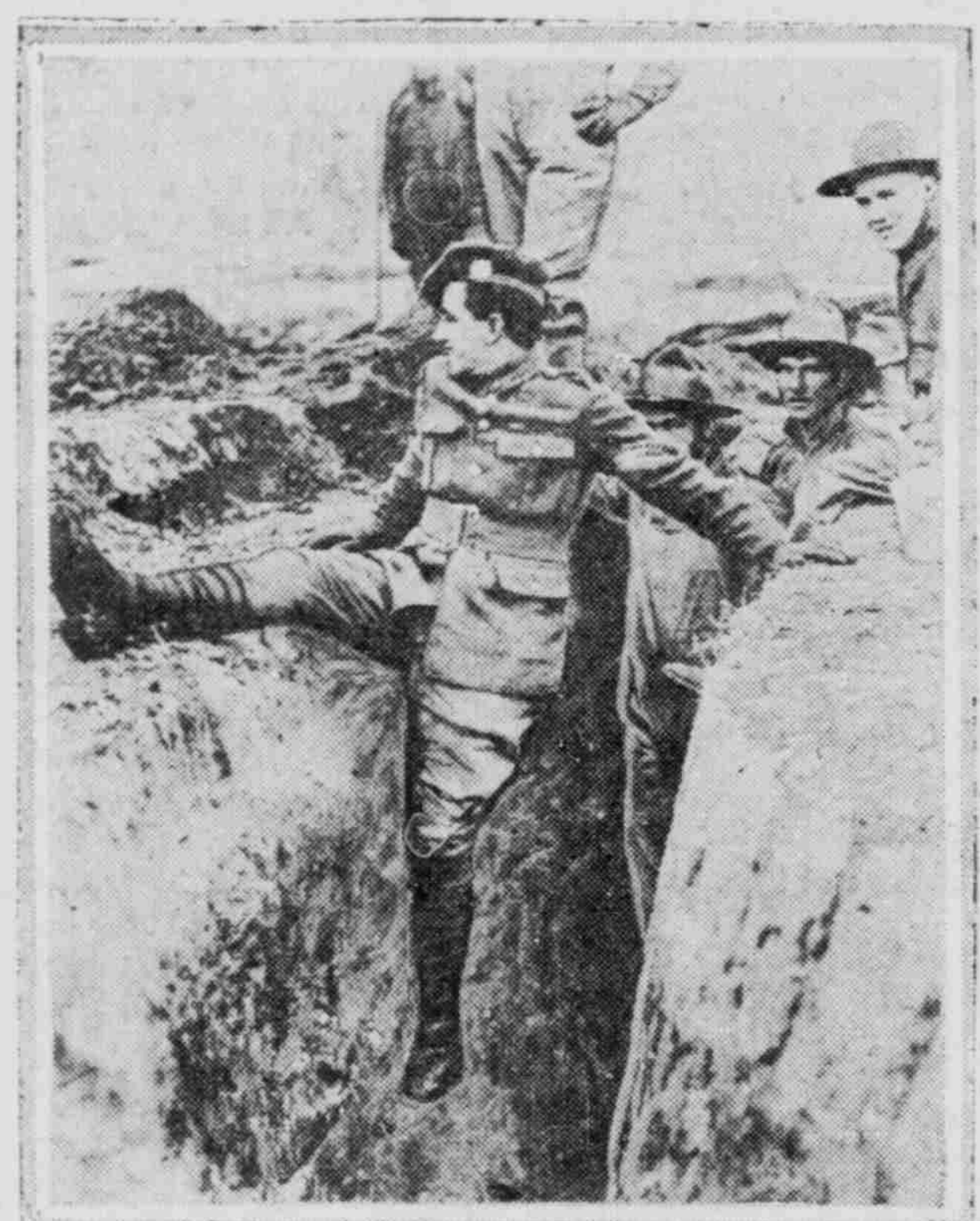
And it was stated rather emphatically today that when Sec'y Baker tells his side and Sen. James speaks for the administration there will be no assault made on the Oregon senator. It will be stated, officials said, that the president welcomes criticism and that he has opened the way for as complete publicity as is possible without revealing military secrets to the Germans. And it will be further declared that the conditions complained of are being remedied as rapidly as possible.

Censorship is Blamed. To the censorship voluntarily accepted by the newspapers of the country can be traced a great deal of the abuse that is complained of. Had the truth about the many camps established in the south for reasons that are known only to the few men responsible been published at the start conditions would have been remedied, and lives would have been saved. The same can be said about nearly every point at issue in the war. If the result of the present dispute is to be the listing of what has been felt to be an unwarranted censorship then the public must benefit.

Americans here today—senators and representatives—who place patriotism above party were working to prevent any further breach between the president and the congress. They pointed out that, inasmuch as the chief duty of the country now is to win the war, all parties to the present controversy "should bury the hatchet" and try to reconcile their views. The country must stand by the president. It is declared, as if the idea is allowed to get abroad in the central empire that he is not really the spokesman for the entire people, untimely damage will result to the allied cause.

ARTILLERY DUELS RAGE. PARIS, Jan. 25.—Heavy artillery duels raged throughout the night in the sectors of Maisons de Champagne and Avocourt, the war office announced this afternoon. (The former is on the Champagne front and the latter on the Verdun line.)

Showing the Boys How to Go Over the Top



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Face of War Conditions Changing Hourly, Russian Situation is Paramount

Withdrawal of Austro-Germans on Italian Line Indicates Abandonment of Venetian Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The international situation loomed large today. Officials pointed out that most important happenings are developing behind the curtain of censorship. The very face of war conditions is changing almost hourly. Some of the most important developments, include: Reported rejection by the Russian envoys to the Brest Litovsk peace conference of the German peace terms. Imperial Chancellor Count von Hertling's admission that the Russian peace negotiations are "moving unsatisfactorily" and his further statement, which could not be reconciled with that declaration that he "still hopes for an early peace."

Reinforce West Lines. Withdrawal of the German lines in northern Italy coupled with admitted heavy reinforcement of the German forces all along the western war front. Premier Lloyd George inviting the Irish leaders to a conference in an endeavor to dispose of the Irish question.

Marked increase in the Austrian sentiment for a peace without indemnities or annexations. A new allied war council ready to convene in Paris at which Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, army chief of staff, represents the United States.

Russ Situation Important. At no previous time in the history of war have so many important angles to the situation presented themselves, officials say. All are most important. The Russian situation and its effect on the Austrian internal troubles naturally overshadow all else. If the Russian refusal of the German terms is maintained the inevitable result must be further fighting. This will mean that Germany will have to withdraw some of the forces now massing along the western front to hold the east even though the military chiefs adhere to their announced intention of waging only a defense campaign against the disorganized Russians.

Must Retain Garrisons. Whether the Russians decide to fight again or not the general unrest that prevails in the new republic must compel the Germans to re-

WAR SECRETARY ASKS HEARING BY COMMITTEE

Writes Letter to Sen. Chamberlain Urging Special Session of Senate Body to Hear His Statement.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Sec'y of War Baker intends to defend the American army from all strictures made upon it. He also has demanded the right to make this defense before the senate committee on military affairs, whose chairman, Sen. George Chamberlain, yesterday attacked the "inefficiency" which has kept the nation unprepared to wage a successful war. The secretary today sent a letter to Sen. Chamberlain asking that a meeting of the senate committee be called without delay to hear him and that "all members of the senate and the house who are so disposed" be given opportunity to attend.

Baker Asks Meeting. The Baker letter was as follows: "My dear Sen. Chamberlain: The questions which have arisen with regard to the conduct of the war require an explicit statement from me for the information of your committee, and generally, for the information of congress and the country.

"I feel that in justice I owe such a statement to the splendid officers and men of the army who have forgotten themselves and labored with such sacrifice, and, I think, success, in the building of a great army. It is due also to the great number of men of business and of affairs who have accepted the invitation of the war department to come to Washington and brought their business experience, their talent, and their judgment to aid in public affairs. And I think the people of the country are entitled to have at large a summary of what has been done by America in the war.

"I therefore, respectfully request that your committee arrange an opportunity for me to make such a statement, and that the time and place be fixed as to enable all members of the senate and the house of representatives who are so disposed to attend.

"If this request can be complied with I shall be happy to be advised at your earliest convenience of the time and place.

"NEWTON D. BAKER." Sen. Chamberlain stated, when he received Sec'y Baker's letter, that he would lay it before the senate military committee at once and that the secretary would doubtless be given an opportunity to be heard by the committee without delay.

Shipping Board's Architect Quits; Was 'Under Fire'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Théodore E. Ferris, chief architect and construction engineer of the emergency fleet corporation, who designed most of the steel vessels now building, has resigned. His resignation, announced today by Charles Piez, general manager of the fleet corporation, in the climax of a bitter controversy growing out of the award of ship contracts to "paper" shipbuilding firms. Mr. Ferris was recently under fire before a senate investigating committee, as to his previous connection with the Clinchfield Navigation Co. of Seattle, which it was brought out, reaped an immense profit by subcontracting its contracts to the Sloan Navigation Co., for the construction of 16 steel hulls for the shipping board.

Gen. Mgr. Piez stated emphatically today that Mr. Ferris' resignation had not been due to any irregularities.

Swears Germans Paid Him to Plant Fire Bombs in U. S.

International News Service: NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The most damaging evidence yet presented against Franz von Rintelen and his 11 alleged co-conspirators for placing fire bombs on munition ships was introduced today when the trial was resumed before United States Judge Howe. It came with the calling to the witness stand of Herman F. W. Ebling, an interned German alien, who swore that he had been engaged by German agents to plant fire bombs.

Ebling opened his testimony by asserting that as he was afraid of being killed by order of German officials for his failure to carry out the work assigned to him, the American authorities, at his request, have held him at Bloomingdale asylum. He worked there as an orderly until he was brought here to testify against von Rintelen and his alleged associates.

Ebling swore that Carl Schimmel engaged him to plant the bombs.

OVER-CROWDING SPREADS SICKNESS

Maj. Gen. Gorgas Says Hospitals Should Have Been Built First.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Sen. Chamberlain today drew from Maj. Gen. Gorgas, surgeon general of the army, a frank admission that overcrowding in the training camps has "greatly increased" the number of deaths caused by epidemic diseases.

Gen. Gorgas made the statement on the witness stand before the senate military affairs committee, of which Sen. Chamberlain is chairman.

He said that he had recommended an average of five men to the standard sized tents. Sen. Chamberlain reminded him that previous testimony showed as many as 12 men to the tent.

"What has been the effect of this overcrowding upon the sickness in the camps?" asked Sen. Chamberlain.

"I think that it was greatly increased by overcrowding," answered Gen. Gorgas.

The war department left the building of hospitals to the last in the construction of the camps, "Gen. Gorgas testified. "Don't you think that to properly safeguard the health of our soldiers, we should have built hospitals first?" asked Sen. McKellar.

"I think that would have been wiser," Gen. Gorgas replied. "I am sure it would have been wiser," answered the general.

NEWLY NAMED "SUN" OF AMERICAN PHASES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., has been appointed general of all army munitions. The post is the equivalent of a munitions minister.

It was stated.

AUSTRIA MAY MAKE A PEACE MOVE TO U. S.

Foreign Minister Czernin Speaks in Conciliatory Terms of Wilson's War Aims Speech.

International News Service: AMSTERDAM, Jan. 25.—Following the German chancellor's war aims speech in Berlin in which he stated that some of the principles laid down by Pres't Wilson are acceptable, advices from Vienna today quoted the Austrian foreign minister, Count Czernin, as approaching the American terms in a conciliatory spirit.

The Austrian foreign minister's address was made before the Austrian parliament and in the course of it he said that "Austria and America virtually agree upon some of the big principles involved as well as concrete questions of lesser importance."

May Be Basis for Action. Count Czernin expressed the opinion that the exchange of peace views between Austria and the United States may form the basis for definite action.

Count Czernin took up the 14 terms laid down by the American executive and after dissecting them said that the difference in views is not so great that it could not be bridged by future discussions.

At the same time the speaker said that Austria must reject all advices from the outside as to handling of her internal affairs. The foreign minister continued by saying that while Pres't Wilson's speech was not a step toward the Austro-Hungarian viewpoint, nevertheless Austria still gives full support to her allies in the war.

CAPITAL HEARS RUMORS OF PEACE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Specific reports that Austria-Hungary will make a peace move addressed directly to the United States in the very near future were current in diplomatic and official circles here this afternoon. It was stated that this action had been decided on by the Austrian cabinet as a result of the promises made to the leaders of the socialist and labor organizations which have fomented the general strike which has convulsed Austria.

State department officials said that they had heard the report but declined to discuss it. It was pointed out that Austria knows just exactly where the United States stands on the subject of peace and that if any further terms are officially asked they must take into consideration this country's position as outlined by Pres't Wilson to the recent joint session of congress.

Based on Cables. Much of today's peace talk was based on the news cables via Amsterdam quoting Count Czernin, the Austrian foreign minister, as saying that Austria and the United States not only agree on the principles that govern the future of the world but on many of the great principles which are at issue in the war. The Austrian diplomat had been reported to have declared that an exchange of views between the United States and Austria would be the starting point of a new negotiation between the warring nations.

European War Prices Balm to Profiteer Victims Here

International News Service: LONDON, Jan. 25.—Persons living in the United States may think they have cause to complain of the high cost of living, but let them view some of Europe's war prices and they will change their minds and thank their lucky stars.

A traveler who arrived here today from Holland said that coal is selling in Belgium for \$20 a ton, where it can be secured at all. In Brussels a pair of shoes cost \$50. Eggs sell at \$3 per dozen. Butter, when available, sells in Antwerp at from \$2 to \$4 a pound. Potatoes, which can seldom be bought, ordinarily sell in Belgium cities at 50 cents a pound.

Chancellor Asserts Proposals of Allies Can't be Considered

Says Evacuation of Russian Territory Occupied by Austro-German Armies is Question Only For Russia and Central Empires.

International News Service: BERLIN, Jan. 25.—Count von Hertling, the imperial chancellor, in an address to the reichstag main committee, replying to the war aims speeches of Pres't Wilson and Premier Lloyd George, declared that the cession of Alsace-Lorraine could not be considered by the German government.

Concerning the situation in the east and the Brest Litovsk parley the chancellor said that, in the opinion of the government, the evacuation of Russian territory by the Austro-German armies is a question that concerns only Russia and the central empires.

Reference to Wilson. A significant reference was made to Pres't Wilson's war aims speech. The chancellor declared that the tone of the speech had changed since the president's reply to the peace note of Pope Benedict XV., and that perhaps "the American president has already started in the right direction."

An agreement probably could be reached without any difficulty on the first four points laid down by Pres't Wilson, the chancellor went on, summarized, these are:

- 1.—Open covenants and an absence of "secret diplomacy."
- 2.—Freedom of the seas.
- 3.—Guarantees for the reduction of "national armaments."
- 4.—The removal of economic barriers.

Difficulty Over Colonial Formula. On the other hand the speaker said that the realization of Pres't Wilson's colonial formula "would meet with some difficulties."

Von Hertling took a determined stand against "reconsideration of the status of Alsace-Lorraine" and wound up his talk by suggesting that Pres't Wilson and Premier Lloyd George again reconsider and restate their terms.

The chancellor said that Germany is willing to consider the formation of an international league to enforce peace after the end of the war.

The chancellor took a different attitude towards Premier Lloyd George. He said that he "saw no earnest desire for peace upon the part of Germany's enemies," and emphasized his opinion that the British premier believed himself, justly entitled to adjudge Germany guilty of all kinds of crimes while displaying no friendly spirit.

Undertakes No Forecast. Germany does not wish to acquire any territory in Belgium or northern France "the violence," the chancellor continued.

The speaker revealed that the Brest Litovsk peace negotiations have been resumed and that the Russian delegation has returned from Petrograd after consulting the bolshevik government.

However, the chancellor did not undertake to forecast "any result," saying that the negotiations are proceeding slowly and with some difficulty.

At the conclusion Count von Hertling expressed the hope that the negotiations between the Germans and the Ukrainians will soon result in a definite agreement.

GERMANY IS DIVIDED OVER OUTLOOK FOR PEACE.

International News Service: AMSTERDAM, Jan. 25.—Germany is divided over the outlook for peace.

WANT AMERICA TO BE REPRESENTED

Labor Expected to Send Delegates to Allied Conclave in London Next Month.

NOTTINGHAM, Eng., Jan. 25.—Labor leaders attending the annual conference of the labor party declared today that they expected the American workmen to accept the invitation to send delegates to an allied conclave in London to consider peace terms.